

Overstepping Authority

OVERRULED—The Georgia Supreme Court ruled against a project to deepen a shipping channel in the Kemp River yesterday, stating the Environmental Department acted illegally when it ignored the results of an environmental impact report and granted a permit for the project.

A third-party environmental agency had assessed the implications of the project and had found that expanding the depth of the river would most likely result in a decrease in water quality that would adversely affect local wildlife. The Environmental Department pushed aside the recommendation and negotiated with the state government for a permit to continue the project, thereby allowing large container ships to pass through the Kemp River, resulting in increased state trade revenue. Nonprofit group Friends of Georgia's Waterways obtained a copy of the environmental impact report and quickly sued to stop the project from moving forward.

"The Georgia Environmental Department overstepped its authority when it ignored the agency's assessment," said attorney Greg Shapiro, who represents Friends of Georgia's Waterways. "I am pleased that the state's high court has put an end to the project, which would have endangered hundreds of species that make the Kemp River their home. For example, river otters are a protected species in Georgia. Projects like these could lead to river otters becoming endangered, then extinct. You'd think the Environmental Department would know this and take this into consideration before foolishly giving the go-ahead to such an irresponsible expansion."

1) Which of the following statements best summarizes the main idea of the passage?

- A. The Georgia Environmental Department does not give consideration to endangered species.
- B. The Georgia Supreme Court is more likely than not to rule in favor of nonprofit environmental groups.
- C. A project to deepen a Georgia River was found to be illegal because it could potentially harm nearby wildlife.
- D. The Georgia Environmental Department thinks increasing state trade revenue is the most important outcome of any project.
- E. Third-party agencies' environmental impact reports may not always accurately predict the outcome of a project.

2) As used in paragraph 2, the word **implications** most nearly means

- A. urgency
- B. criticisms
- C. objectives
- D. importance
- E. consequences

3) Based on the information in the passage, it can be understood that Greg Shapiro

- A. thinks the Georgia Environmental Department should be abolished
- B. believes the Georgia Environmental Department has limitless authority
- C. enjoys working on behalf of environmental rights organizations
- D. believes river otters would be threatened if the project moves forward
- E. is against increasing Georgia's trade revenue

4) This passage would most likely be found in a

- A. Georgia city newspaper
- B. Georgia lifestyle magazine
- C. business magazine
- D. medical journal
- E. Georgia tourism guidebook

5) Which of the following statements from the passage best explains why the project should be disallowed?

A. "The Georgia Supreme Court ruled against a project to deepen a shipping channel in the Kemp River yesterday, stating the Environmental Department acted illegally when it ignored the results of an environmental impact report and granted a permit for the project."

B. "A third-party environmental agency had assessed the implications of the project and had found that expanding the depth of the river would most likely result in a decrease in water quality that would adversely affect local wildlife."

C. "Nonprofit group Friends of Georgia's Waterways obtained a copy of the environmental impact report and quickly sued to stop the project from moving forward."

D. "Projects like these could lead to river otters becoming endangered, then extinct."

E. "You'd think the Environmental Department would know this and take this into consideration before foolishly giving the go-ahead to such an irresponsible expansion."

6) What do you think will happen next to the Environmental Department officials who illegally approved the plan? Explain your ideas.
